

Records of Lepidoptera in Somerset

By Lieut.-Col. A. M. EMMET

The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society's list of the Lepidoptera of Somerset, compiled by A. K. Turner, F.R.E.S., F.R.Met.Soc., was published in 1955. The purpose of these notes is, in a limited way, to act as a supplement to this very useful work.

I was living, on and off, in Bristol from 1957 until 1963, and visited relatives there before and since these dates. From that base I was able to make periodic collecting expeditions into Somerset. Leigh Woods, situated just over the Avon Gorge from Bristol, was the only area I worked with any continuity, but there are also three other localities I used to visit which deserve special mention. The first of these is Goblin Coombe, an attractive limestone gorge some ten miles south west of Bristol; the western part, situated in the parish of Cleeve, is covered in mixed woodland, and includes, on the plateau above, plantations of larch and young Scotch fir; but higher up the valley to the east, in the parish of Wrington, there is a stretch of open downland bearing patches of meagre heather. As far as I know, no-one has ever collected in this area before. Next, there is Shapwick, situated on the turf moors, where the terrain ranges from relatively dry heathland and scrub to water-meadows; birch is the predominant tree and there are extensive stretches of bog-myrtle. The locality is well known to entomologists and is now a nature reserve. The third of my collecting grounds was the sand-dune area at Berrow, a mile or two north of Burnham-on-Sea.

It is clear from Turner's list that the Microlepidoptera have been largely neglected in the county for many years. It is therefore unfortunate that my own interest in this group was only awakened in the summer of 1961. Though I have some records of micros to offer, these are the result of the clumsy (but sometimes lucky) fumbblings of a tiro rather than the planned and comprehensive work of a discriminate collector. When almost every moth you catch is, to you, a new species, you have no incentive to go searching for rarities. My experience leads me to hope that the majority of Turner's "list" species will turn up, if looked for in the right way. The notes that follow will show that many species have a wider range and higher density than was known to Turner when he compiled his list.

I am dividing my records into three sections. Section I comprises fifteen species not listed by Turner, Section II gives records of species described by Turner as rare, local, or of doubtful occurrence; I have omitted very many records of the commoners which add nothing significant to recorded knowledge. Section III consists of notes of a few species taken in the County of Bristol at a locality separated from Somerset only by a short distance. These, therefore, are not Somerset records, but are indications that the insects could be found in that county.

I would have preferred to use the nomenclature and classification of Heslop's Revised Check-List of British Lepidoptera (1964), a work which itself emanates from Somerset. However, Turner employs Kloet & Hincks's A Check-List of British Insects (1945), and, as my notes are intended to be read in conjunction with Turner's list, I have deemed it better to follow the same systematisation. But to assist readers who use Heslop, I have appended his reference number to each species, and, where

applicable, the name he uses. Hence current names will sometimes appear as synonyms in my notes.

After each species I have quoted Turner's general statement of its status in the county, sometimes slightly abbreviating it by omitting the name of the foodplant or description of habitat. Of the localities he gives, I quote only those for which I have fresh information—possibly only one out of a number—and anyone wishing to form a comprehensive picture of the status of the insect in the county must consult the original list; my purpose is to supplement, not to supersede. It follows that there will be no place name in my quotation from Turner when I am introducing a new locality. I have omitted the initials of Turner's recorders, but when the Victoria County History is his authority, I have said so: records of so long ago need verification or adjustment.

All my specimens were netted or bred: I have never used light. Furthermore, the dates I give for localities other than Abbots Leigh, keep repeating themselves; in the last five years I have made only five visits to Goblin Coombe, eight to Shapwick and four to Berrow. If so much can be learnt about so many supposedly rare species in so few expeditions (pace Churchill), it is clear that Somerset offers immense possibilities for entomological discovery.

I. Species not included in Turner's list

- Eriocrania sangi* Wood (2301). Abbots Leigh, one, 6.v.1963
- Eilema deplana* Esp. (178). Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), three larvae feeding on lichens growing on yew; from these I bred one moth on 16.vi.1960.
- Eupithecia trisignaria* H.S. (856). Compton Martin. I found five larvae on *Heracleum* in September, 1959, but failed to rear the moths. I revisited the locality in 1961, when I found about eight larvae, from which I bred three moths the following summer. The fact that I have also found larvae at Coombe Dingle in the city of Bristol suggests a wider distribution, but I failed to turn it up in Leigh Woods in spite of prolonged search each year.
- Ortholitha umbrifera* Prout (—). Quantocks, where I took five specimens on 28.v.1958. A month later I revisited the locality and found *O. mucronata* Scop. (816) in abundance. Though the earlier moths are different in appearance, it is possible that they are not specifically distinct. (Ref. Tams, W. H. T., 1941. "Some British Moths Reviewed", Journ. Amat Ent. Soc., Vol. 38: 25-26.)
- Mniophaga mundella* Dougl. (1627). Berrow, one, 6.v.1963. No significance should be attached to the fact that I only took one specimen; small Gelechids abound on the sand-dunes and it is difficult to be selective.
- Lita longicornis* Curt. (1642). Shapwick, one, 23.vii.1961. I failed to find it on subsequent visits.
- Coleophora flavipennella* Dup. (1992). Abbots Leigh, one, 19.vii.1964. I am grateful to Mr. R. W. J. Uffen for determining this specimen.
- Coleophora taeniipennella* H.-S. (2063). Berrow, three, flying among *Juncus articulatus* in a damp hollow, 18.vii.1964.
- Lithocolletis cerasicolella* H.-S. (2082). Abbots Leigh, where it is well established on cherry. I first took the larvae in October, 1963.
- Lithocolletis corylifoliella* Haw. (2101). This common species was probably accidentally omitted from Turner's list. I have bred a short series from mines in the leaves of whitebeam collected at Goblin Coombe (Cleeve) and have seen mines elsewhere on hawthorn.

- Incurvaria masculella* Schiff. (2277). Possibly also an accidental omission from Turner's list. Abbots Leigh, 22.v.1963.
- Stigmella atricapitella* Haw. (2316). Abbots Leigh, bred from oak, 1964. Records for this species are probably included in Turner's list under *S. ruficapitella* Haw., which I have also bred from Leigh Woods.
- Nepticula salicis* Staint. (2357). Abbots Leigh, bred from willow, v.1964. The larval mines are not rare on *Salix* in that locality.
- Nepticula distinguenda* Hein. (2375). Shapwick, common. I bred the moth in 1954 and 1965 from mines in birch collected the previous autumn.
- Dechtria subbimaculella* Haw. (2381). Abbots Leigh, Goblin Coombe, bred in 1964 from the previous year's mines in oak leaves. It appears to be fairly common in both localities.

II. Additional notes on species included in Turner's list

- Eriocrania semipurpurella* Steph. (2300). "Probably still occurs where birch is plentiful on the Turf Moors. Abbots Leigh . . . (Victoria County History)".
- Eriocrania rubroaurella* Haw. (2304 *purpurella* Haw.). "Apparently very scarce at the present time . . . Abbots Leigh . . . (V.C.H.).
- Mnemonicum unimaculella* Zett. (2307). "Probably still occurs on birch. Abbots Leigh . . . (V.C.H.).

The Victoria County History records are still operative; the three species are common in Leigh Woods.

- Cybosia mesomella* L. (176). "Very scarce and local; it should occur freely on the Turf Moors, but records are few . . . Shapwick . . .". I have taken it at Shapwick and bred a specimen from a larva taken on the Quantock Hills.
- Comacla senex* Hübn. (173). "Very scarce and local in marshy places; it probably still occurs on the Turf Moors . . . Shapwick, 1920, 1933". It still occurs at Shapwick not uncommonly (1961-1964).
- Coenobia rufa* Haw. (427). "Generally in marshy places such as the Turf Moors; local and uncommon . . . Shapwick . . .". In my experience it is common at Shapwick.
- Pyrrhia umbra* Hufn. (334). "Seems to have become much rarer that it was about 50 years ago. Recent records are few . . . Berrow . . .". Berrow, two, 14.vi.1961.
- Procus versicolor* Borkh. (464). "Uncommon, but confused in the past with *P. strigilis*". Berrow, 14.vi.1961.
- Aporophila nigra* Haw. (555 *lunula* Stroem). "Uncommon, but there are records from most parts of the county". Keynsham, one, ix.1952.
- Tiliacea citrargo* L. (582). "Very local and uncommon; nearly all the records are from the north of the county . . . Abbots Leigh". I found larvae commonly among the suckers at the base of limes in Leigh Woods, and bred a series.
- Citrea lutea* Stroem (584). "Very scarce and local; appears to have been much commoner formerly". Abbots Leigh, fairly common.
- Eupsilia transversa* Hufn. (571). "Apparently much less common than formerly . . .". Abbots Leigh, 1957.
- Lithophane socia* Hufn. (539). "Generally uncommon, but it is widespread . . . Abbots Leigh . . .". Abbots Leigh, three, 1957.
- Tholomiges (Hypenodes) turfosalis* Wocke (659). "Very scarce and

- local—mainly on the turf moors Shapwick, 1918, common 1920". It is now extremely abundant at Shapwick. I noted what appeared to be a partial second emergence on 23.ix.1964.
- Schranksia taenialis* Hübn. (657). "Very scarce and local: recent records are wanting Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.) Shapwick". Leigh Woods, several, vii.1961; Shapwick, one, 23.ix.1964.
- Sterrrha subsericeata* Haw. (711). "Local and uncommon; probably overlooked". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), 1957.
- Cosybia pendularia* Clerck (683). Local and uncommon, mainly in the northern part of the county Shapwick, 1950". Shapwick, several, 2.v.1963.
- Cosymbia trilinearia* Borkh. (688 *linearia* Hübn.). "Very rare but it may have been overlooked". Abbots Leigh, one, 29.vi.1964.
- Pseudoterpna pruinata* Hufn. (671). "Generally uncommon and local". Quantocks, 28.vi.1958.
- Eupithecia expallidata* Doubl. (862). "Scarce and local Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.), scarce". Larvae are now not at all uncommon in Leigh Woods on golden rod. I have found them annually since 1960, and have bred a series.
- Eupithecia absinthiata* Clerck (860). "Seems to be unusually scarce in the county, but possibly overlooked". Larvae are plentiful in golden rod and a number of other foodplants in Leigh Woods.
- Eupithecia valerianata* Hübn. (852). "Scarce and local; mainly in the Turf Moors Shapwick, 1912". Larvae were common at Shapwick in 1961 (the only year I searched for them) and from them I bred a series in the following May and June.
- Eupithecia lariciata* Frey. (882). "There are few records of it but it is probably found in nearly all larch plantations". Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), in the larch plantation.
- Eupithecia isogrammaria* H.-S. (845 *haworthiata* Doubl.). "Scarce and local, and mainly in the northern parts Abbots Leigh". Larvae are common in Leigh Woods.
- Eupithecia inturbata* Hübn. (844). "Very local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, one larva (not bred), 1957.
- Catocalpe undulata* L. (791). "Very scarce and local Shapwick, fairly common". Shapwick, only once, 1963.
- Mesoleuca albicillata* L. (740). "Very rare and apparently confined to the northern part". Shapwick, one, 9.vi.1963.
- Melanthia procellata* Schiff. (759). "Uncommon and local in the limestone districts Abbots Leigh". It is fairly common in Leigh Woods.
- Discoloxia blomeri* Curt. (836). "Scarce and local; practically confined to the northern part of the county Abbots Leigh". It is still not rare in Leigh Woods, and occurs freely in Coombe Dingle, in the city of Bristol.
- Oporinia autumnata* Borkh. (824). "Seems to be local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, not rare.
- Semiothisa liturata* Clerck (903). "Very scarce and local; much less frequent than formerly". I took several, including a specimen of *ab. nigrofulvata* Collins, in Goblin Coombe (Cleeve) on 17.vi.1961.
- Ectropis (Aethalura) punctulata* Schiff. (950). "Scarce and local; appears to be absent even in some large birch plantations Abbots Leigh". I have taken it in Leigh Woods and can confirm that

it is scarce.

- Cleora (Deileptenia) ribeata* Clerck (940). "Now very scarce and local". Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), one bred, 10.vii.1960.
- Bapta bimaculata* F. (894). "Very scarce and local in the northern part of the county". Abbots Leigh, 1963.
- Pseudopanthera macularia* L. (927). "Becoming much scarcer than formerly and more local Abbots Leigh". Still to be found sparingly in Leigh Woods and commonly at Goblin Coombe (Wrington).
- Crocota (Aspitates) ochrearia* Rossi (968). "Very rare and local: probably still occurs in the coastal sand-dunes Berrow". Berrow, 12.v.1961.
- Cepphis advenaria* Hübn. (926). "Very scarce and local Abbots Leigh". Abbots Leigh, once.
- Asphalia dilutata* Schiff. (131). "Very local and generally uncommon Abbots Leigh, scarce". Leigh Woods.
- Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. (49). "Very local". Abbots Leigh. 1957 only.
- Strymonidia w-album* Knock (54). "Generally uncommon, but there are records from all parts Abbots Leigh". Leigh Woods, fairly common, especially in the larval stage: Easton-in-Gordano.
- Salebria betulae* Deg. (1073). "Very scarce and local in birch plantations Shapwick". Shapwick, one, 13.vii.1964.
- Homoeosoma sinuella* Fab. (1086). "A local species found on coastal sand-hills". Berrow, one, 22.vi.1961.
- Catoptria (Crambus) pinellus* L. (1136). "Local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, one, 14.ix.1962.
- Perinephela lancealis* Schiff. (1025). "Very scarce and local". Abbots Leigh, one, 29.vi.1964.
- Pyrausta nigrata* Scop. (1003). "Very scarce and local on limestone hills". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), two, 5.vi.1963.
- Pyrausta aurata* Scop. (1007). "Widespread but always rather scarce". Abbots Leigh, scarce; Goblin Coombe (Wrington), common; Axminster.
- Mecyna asinalis* Hübn. (1029). "Very local, but common enough in a few places". Abbots Leigh, common, 1961.
- Scoparia truncicolella* Stt. (988). "Local and uncommon". Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), 1961.
- Endotricha flammealis* Schiff. (1043). "Very scarce and local, generally in marshy places Shapwick". I noted it sparingly in Leigh Woods and commonly at Shapwick in 1961.
- Platyptilia pallidactyla* Haw (1178). "Probably occurs in many places where yarrow is common, but there are few records". Berrow, one, 18.vii.1964.
- Alucita tridactyla* L. (1181 *Pterophorus tetradactylus* L.). Local and uncommon on hillsides". Shipham, several, 13.vii.1964.
- Oidaematophorus osteodactylus* Zell. (1189). ". . . . reported from the northern part many years ago. Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.)". It is common, both in the larval and imaginal stage, in Leigh Woods.
- Oidaematophorus tephrodactylus* Hübn. (1191). "Very rare in the northern part Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.)". Leigh Woods, one, 29.vi.1964.
- Procris geryon* Hübn. (222). "Very local but occurs in a few places on hillsides in the northern part". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), two, 2.vi.1957.

- Epagoge (Capua) vulgana* Fröl. (1275). "Very scarce and local and mainly in the northern part". Abbots Leigh and Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), common, 1963.
- Tortrix (Amelia) viburnana* Schiff. (1262). "Local and uncommon amongst bilberry and heather Shapwick". Shapwick, two 23.vii.1961.
- Cnephasia longana* Haw. (1284). "Uncommon and mainly in the northern part". Berrow, abundant, 1964.
- Peronea (Acleria) aspersana* Hübn. (1314). "Generally uncommon, but it is widespread Shapwick, common". Locality and frequency confirmed.
- Peronea ferrugana* Schiff. (1330 *Acleris tripunctana* Hübn.). . . . rather uncommon Shapwick, 1933". Shapwick, one, 23.ix.1964.
- Peronea fissurana* Pierce (1329 *Acleris ferrugana* Schiff.). "Very rare Shapwick". Shapwick, a specimen probably referable to this species, 13.vii.1963.
- Peronea (Acleris) cristana* Schiff. (1323). "Very local, but common where it does occur". Abbots Leigh, two, 14.ix.1962 and 8.xii.1964.
- Peronea (Acleria) literana* L. (1334). "Uncommon and local in woods and plantations". Quantocks, one, 11.ix.1952.
- Evetria (Rhyacionia) buoliana* Schiff. (1404). "Formerly reported as common in fir woods (V.C.H.), but there are no definite records. It may become common again in some of the new state forests." Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), in the Scotch fir plantation, common, 13.vii.1963.
- Ancylis comptana* Fröl. (1499). "Probably still occurs on limestone hills in the northern part, but very local". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), common, 1963.
- Ancylis achatana* Schiff. (1498). "Very rare". Shapwick, one, 26.vii.1961.
- Notocelia uddmanniana* L. (1445). "Generally rather uncommon except in the Taunton district". Abbots Leigh, common, 1964.
- Eucosma aspidiscana* Hübn. (1424). "Scarce and local". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), not rare, v.1963.
- Eucosma fulvana* Steph. (1421). "Very local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, one, 19.vii.1964.
- Argyroploce (Olethreutes) rivulana* Scop. (1560). "Very scarce and local". Shapwick, one, 13.vii.1964.
- Argyroploce (Celyphoides) cespitana* Hübn. (1563). "Appears to have been fairly common many years ago, but now very scarce". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), one, 21.vii.1964; Shapwick, common, 13.vii.1964.
- Hemimene (Dichrorampha) plumbagana* Treits. (1340). "Very local". Berrow, common, vi.1963; it also occurs commonly on the Bristol bank of the Avon bordering on Somerset.
- Pammene (Strophedra) weirana* Dougl. (1398). "Local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, bred, 2.vi.1964.
- Enarmonia (Laspeyresia) nigricana* Fab. (1352). "Appears to be very scarce in the county". Berrow, one, 6.vi.1963.
- Xenolechia (Telfhusa) sequax* Haw. (1622). "Very local on limestone hills". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), not rare, 21.vii.1964.
- Briotropha (Mniophaga) senectella* Zell. (1629). "Very rare". Berrow, one, 18.vii.1964.
- Briotropha desertella* Dougl. (1632). "Very local in coastal sand-dunes". Berrow, common, 1963-1964.

- Sophronia semicostella* Hübn. (1685). "Very rare". Goblin Coombe (Wrington), three, 21.vii.1964; I could have taken many.
- Oegoconia quadripuncta* Haw. (1712). "Very local . . .". Shapwick, one, 23.vii.1961. It also occurs in the city of Bristol.
- Borkhausenia (Tubuliferola) flavifrontella* Hübn. (1770). "Scarce". Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), one, 13.vii.1963.
- Depressaria (Agonopterix) ciliella* Stt. (1819). "Widespread but rather uncommon". Compton Martin, bred, 1961.
- Aegeria andreniformis* Lasp. (228). "Very rare and local in the northern part". Abbots Leigh, where old mines are conspicuous but not very numerous; I found two tenanted mines there in 1960, but did not breed the moths.
- Sphecia bembeciformis* Hübn. (224). "Local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, where I have noticed the mines on willow on a number of occasions, but I have not seen the moth.
- Perittia oleae* Haw. (1857). "Very scarce". Abbots Leigh, two, 1963.
- Elachista atricomella* Stt. (1869). "Must surely occur in many places, but records are lacking. "Goblin Coombe (Wrington), one, 26.v.1963.
- Elachista subalbidella* Schläg. (1898). "Very scarce and local. Shapwick, 1933". Shapwick, five taken out of a number seen, vi.1963.
- Zelleria hepariella* Stt. (1938). "Rather uncommon . . . Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.), scarce . . ." Now fairly common at Abbots Leigh, where it can be beaten from yew trees in the winter.
- Swammerdamia heroldella* Hübn. (1943). "Scarce and local . . . Shapwick 1934 . . .". I noted larvae, not uncommonly, on the birches at Shapwick in the autumn of 1963.
- Coleophora viminetella* Zell. (1889). "In marshy places on willow; apparently rare". Abbots Leigh on *Salix*, Shapwick on *Salix* and *Myrica*, common. I have bred the moth from both localities.
- Coleophora glaucicolella* J. H. Wood (2064). "Scarce and local". Abbots Leigh and Berrow; at both, the cases are relatively common, and I bred the moth from the latter locality in July 1963. Its close relative *C. caespititiella* Zell. (now known as *alticolella* Zell.) is also commoner than Turner suggests; it literally swarmed at Shapwick in early June 1963.
- Lithocolletis heegeriella* Zell. (2073). "Local and uncommon . . .". Abbots Leigh and Goblin Coombe (Cleeve); fairly common in both localities.
- Lithocolletis mespilella* Hübn. (2085). "Doubtfully resident at the present time". Possibly occurs at Goblin Coombe (Cleeve) on whitebeam, mined leaves of which I have collected on two occasions. There appear to be three species, *L. corylifoliella* which I have bred from mines on the upperside (see Part I) and two making long and short mines on the underside. These I have failed to breed, but it is possible that the short mines are *mespilella*.
- Lithocolletis lantanella* Schrank (2089). "Reported many years ago in the limestone hills in the northern part". I have on several occasions observed the mines on *Viburnum lantana* both in Leigh Woods and at Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), but did not take them because I already have a series from another county.
- Lithocolletis salicicolella* Sirc. (2108). "Apparently very rare . . . Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.)". It still occurs, not uncommonly, in Leigh Woods.

- Lithocolletis ulmifoliella* Hübn. (2092). "Reported as common in birch woods many years ago". Abbots Leigh and Shapwick, common in both localities.
- Lithocolletis lautella* Zell. (2095). "Very rare, but probably still occurs in some oak woods Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.). "It still occurs in Leigh Woods, and I have also bred it from Goblin Coombe (Cleeve).
- Lithocolletis schreberella* Fab. (2116). "Very rare; recent records are lacking, but should still be found on elms. "Abbots Leigh, three bred in iv.1964 from a small number of mined leaves (mostly containing *L. tristrigella* Haw.) collected the previous autumn.
- Ornix (Parornix) betulae* Stt. (2139). "Probably still occurs where birch is plentiful, but records are lacking. Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.), fairly common". This old record is still applicable.
- Gracillaria (Catoptilia) semifascia* Haw. (2152). "Rather scarce and local". Abbots Leigh, one, 28.ix.1963.
- Cataplectica fulviguttella* Zell. (2155). "Local and uncommon Abbots Leigh" Abbots Leigh (1964) and Compton Martin (1962), two specimens bred from each locality; larvae are plentiful at Compton Martin.
- Argyresthis pruinella* Clerck (1934 *ephippella* Fab.). "May still occur where cherries are grown but there are few records. Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.)". It is still fairly common in Leigh Woods, and also occurs in Bristol.
- Lyonetia clerkella* L. (2201). "Rather local and uncommon". Abbots Leigh, one, 7.xii.1964.
- Adela rufimitrella* Scop. (2294). "Scarce". Goblin Coombe (Cleeve), 26.v.1963.
- Antispila pfeifferella* Hübn. (1836). "Very local. Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.)". The larval mines were common in Leigh Woods in the summer of 1964.
- Antispila treitschkiella* F. v R. (1837). "Very scarce, doubtfully resident at the present time Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.)". It still occurs in Leigh Woods; I bred two moths in 1964/1965 from mines on *Cornus* collected in the autumn of 1963.
- Stigmella fletcheri* Tutt (2331 *rosella* Schrank, *anomalella* auct.). "Probably still occurs in rose gardens". Abbots Leigh, bred, iv.1964.
- Stigmella (Nepticula) marginicolella* Stt. (2373). "Probably still to be found among elms. Abbots Leigh (V.C.H.), fairly common". This old record for Leigh Woods is still valid; I bred a short series in May 1964 from the previous autumn's larvae.
- Stigmella (Nepticula) plagicolella* Stt. (2377). "Very scarce on black-thorn". I noticed a number of larval mines at Shapwick in 1964, but did not attempt to breed the moth.

III. Species taken in the county of Bristol and possibly occurring in north Somerset

The following species were taken in the parish of Conham in the county of Bristol near the spot where the three counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset and Bristol meet. The locality consists of rough, precipitous waste ground on the north bank of the River Avon, where the food plants of the species concerned grow plentifully. Somerset lies across the river a little upstream, but as the country there is open meadowland,

the food plants may be absent in the immediate vicinity. Some of these moths were surreptitiously pillboxed while I was coaching the University of Bristol crew!

Platyptilia ochrodactyla Schiff. (1177). The only record for Somerset is of its occasional occurrence at Portishead, on the authority of the Victoria County History. Though I have only taken one specimen at Conham (on 15.vii.1964), tansy is abundant there, and the moth is probably established.

Phalonia (Cochlidia) rupicola Curt. (1233). According to Turner, scarce and local, and recorded by the Victoria County History as occurring at Abbots Leigh and Brislington; the latter is about a mile from the Conham locality, and also in the county of Bristol. The moth is quite common at Conham, and probably still occurs in Leigh Woods, where hemp agrimony proliferates.

Lobesia reliquana Hübn.(1520). Not rare at Conham. Turner describes it as scarce in Somerset and gives a V.C.H. record for Abbots Leigh.

Hemimene (Dicrorampha) alpinana Treits. (1337) and *H. flavidorsana* Knaggs (1338). Turner's single record is from the south of the county; though under the heading of *flavidorsana*, it probably refers to *alpinana* as chrysanthemum is given as the food plant. *Flavidorsana* is abundant amongst the tansy at Conham. I have two specimens, both in worn condition, taken on 20.vi.1964, that is a fortnight or more before the general emergence of *flavidorsana*; there is a probability, therefore, that they are *alpinana*.

Hemimene senectana Guen. (1341). "Was reported as common over a hundred years ago; now probably extinct. Brislington, 1851". It is still abundant at Conham. But as neither Brislington nor Conham is in Somerset, the moth has no claim to remain in the Somerset list in default of other records.

Turner prints but rejects old records for *H. tanaceti* Stt. (1347 D. montanana Dup). It was recorded from Keynsham (the adjacent parish of Somerset) and Portishead. I have a Conham specimen which may be referable to this species. In a locality where *petiverella*, *flavidorsana*, *plumbagana*, *senectana*, *sequana* and *plumbana* all abound, it is impossible to be selective in one's captures and others of the genus may well be present.

Lithocolletis scopariella Zell. (2106). "Very rare on broom, Keynsham (V.C.H.)". Turner's only record. The moth is fairly common at Conham, and if a locality where broom occurs still exists in Keynsham, I would expect to find it there also.

Leucoptera spartifoliella Hübn. (2194). "Very scarce among broom. Brislington (V.C.H.), common". The moth is common at Conham, commoner than *L. scopariella*. However, since neither of these localities is in Somerset, this species, like *M. senectana*, has not yet been recorded from that county.

Ants in South Brittany

By K. E. J. BARRETT

A family holiday spent on the south coast of Brittany during late July-August 1966, at Raguénès-Plage, near Pont-Aven provided some opportunity for a rather cursory examination of the local ant fauna. The bulk